

TENNESSEE GENERAL ASSEMBLY
FISCAL REVIEW COMMITTEE



FISCAL NOTE

HB 2665 - SB 2620

January 25, 2012

SUMMARY OF BILL: Requires all sorghum molasses sold or offered for sale in Tennessee to be labeled as either 100 percent pure or not pure sorghum molasses. Specifies that the Department of Agriculture (TDOA) is not required to test, or cause to be tested, any sorghum molasses. Permits any person suffering injury or death resulting from mislabeled sorghum molasses to bring an action to recover actual damages. Permits the trial court to award reasonable attorneys' fees to a prevailing plaintiff or a defendant if the court finds the proceeding was commenced without reasonable cause.

ESTIMATED FISCAL IMPACT:

NOT SIGNIFICANT

Assumptions:

- Based upon information provided by TDOA, the Department will inspect sorghum molasses labeling during food safety inspections. When labeled incorrectly, TDOA will notify the producer of proper labeling requirements. Any necessary communication with producers will be minimal. Thus, the fiscal impact is not significant.
- A small increase in cases in the court system, which will result in additional state and local government expenditures for processing the cases and additional state and local government revenue from fees, taxes and costs collected. These expenditures and revenue are estimated to be not significant.

CERTIFICATION:

The information contained herein is true and correct to the best of my knowledge.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lucian D. Geise".

Lucian D. Geise, Executive Director

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